

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 02096 021440Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
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Z O 021350Z AUG 78  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1435  
/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH 3708  
INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2096

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, PORG, UNSC, LE, IS  
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: CONVERSATIONS WITH BEGIN AND WEIZMAN ON  
NEXT STEPS

REF: (A) STATE 194462, (B) BEIRUT 4402

1. I HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT WEIZMAN BEFORE LEAVING TO  
MEET ROY ATHERTON AT THE AIRPORT THIS MORNING BUT HE HAD  
ALREADY LEFT FOR JERUSALEM. WE EVENTUALLY MADE CONTACT  
AT 1225 LOCAL TIME. (MEANWHILE, SECRETARY VANCE'S LETTER  
TO GEGIN HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO BEGIN BY 1000 A.M. AND  
WEIZMAN WAS ALSO INFORMED OF ITS CONTENTS.)

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2. I BRIEFED WEIZMAN ON GENERAL APPROACH AMBASSADOR  
PARKER WAS TAKING WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS AND BOUTROS  
THIS MORNING IN BEIRUT. SAID WE HAD NO REPORT YET  
ON RESULTS OF THIS CONVERSATION BUT HOPED TO HAVE ONE  
LATER THIS AFTERNOON. (I AM SEEING WEIZMAN AT 1800  
HOURS LOCAL JUST AFTER ROY ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH

BEGIN, DAYAN, WEIZMAN, YADIN, ET AL. HAVE NOW RECEIVED PARKER'S REPORT, REF B. SINCE IT IS BY NO MEANS ALL POSITIVE, TO PUT IT MILDLY, I AM AWAITING DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS. THEY SHOULD REACH ME IN JERUSALEM IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BY 1730 (1130 WASHINGTON TIME.)

3. I WENT OVER POINTS IN PARA 10, REF A WITH WEIZMAN, NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND UNDERSCORED VITAL IMPORTANCE OF ISRAELIS RESTRAINING HADDAD FROM ANY MORE SHELLING OF LAF ON UNIFIL FORCES. TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD REPORTS THAT SHELLING WENT ON THIS MORNING AND SAID "YOU JUST HAVE TO STOP HADDAD FROM ANY MORE SHELLING; NEITHER THE LEBANESE NOR UNIFIL HAVE RETURNED THE FIRE, AND IT IS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO HAVE THIS CONTINUE." WEIZMAN SAID HE WOULD CHECK IMMEDIATELY ON THE SHELLING REPORTS, WHICH HE HAD IN HAND, AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. WEIZMAN TOLD ME THAT AS A RESULT OF VANCE LETTER TO GEGIN, BEGIN WAS CONVENING THE CABINET'S DEFENSE SECURITY COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH ROY ATHERTON. THEREFORE, THEIR CONSULTATIONS ON SOUTH LEBANON WILL BEGIN APPROXIMATELY 1830 JERUSALEM TIME. IT IS, THEREFORE, PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT I HAVE MORE TO SAY WEIZMAN LATER THIS AFTERNOON THAN REF B OFFERS.

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5. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAD ALSO TELEPHONE ME AND I SPOKE TO HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER HANDING UP WITH WEIZMAN. HE TOLD ME OF THE CABINET MEETING LATER TODAY, SAID THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER SECRETARY VANCE'S MESSAGE VERY CAREFULLY, AND THAT HE WOULD REPLY BY TOMORROW MORNING AT THE VERY LATEST. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO HIT HARD ON REPORTS OF HADDAD'S FORCES SHELLING UNIFIL. SAID I URGED WEIZMAN TO STOP HADDAD, AND I ALSO REFERRED TO SOME OTHER POINTS IN PARA 10 IN REF B WITH REGARD TO ISRAELIS INTERNATIONAL POSITION SHOULD THIS TRAGIC SITUATION CONTINUE MUCH LONGER WITHOUT RESOLUTION. I PROMISED BEGIN A REPORT ON PARKER'S MEETINGS IN BEIRUT LATER TODAY, WHICH HE SAID HE WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE.

6. WEIZMAN'S AIDE TELEPHONED ME ABOUT A HALF HOUR LATER. HE ADMITTED WITH SOME EMBARRASSMENT THAT I WAS RIGHT ABOUT "SOME SHELLING" BY HADDAD'S FORCES THIS MORNING--HE SAID THAT PERHAPS FOUR SHELLS HAD FALLEN. I SAID WE KNEW THERE WERE SIX OR MORE, BUT THAT EVEN ONE WAS TOO MANY. I REITERATED INSISTENCE THAT

THE GOI HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP HADDAD FROM THIS PROVOCATIVE ACTION. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM THE MINISTER IMMEDIATELY.

7. SINCE THESE CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED DICK PARKER'S REPORT ON HIS MEETING WITH SARKIS, HOSS, BOUTROS (REF B). ONLY REALLY ENCOURAGING NOTE I FIND IN IT IS THRID SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 7. ONLY RATIONAL SOLUTION AT THIS STAGE OF THE LEBANESE DILEMMA IS THE ONE WE HAVE PROPOSED, AND APPARENTLY GENERAL KHOURY AGREES WITH US. I ONLY HOPE HIS COUNSEL WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY HIS POLITICAL LEADERS.

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8. WITH REGARD TO PARA 9, "ADDENDUM"TO REF B, APPRECIATE VERY MUH PARKER'S EFFORTS TO REMIND BEIRUT THAT ISRAELI ATTITUDE HAS NOT CHANGED IN COURSE OF PAST FEW DAYS. I GUESS WHAT HAS CHANGED IS LEBANESE BELATED RECOGNITION OF FACT THAT HADDAD COULD NOT SO EASILY BE PUT OFF BY "LEBANON SOLUTION," PARTICULARLY WITH ISRAELIS STIFFENING HIS SPINE AS THEY UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE DONE. AS WE HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SEVERAL DAYS NOW, THIS THORNY MATTER OF THE SOURTH MUST BE DEALT WITH INCREMENTALLY IF THERE IS ANY HOPE OF SUCCESS. FIRST GET SOME LEANESE FORCES PEACEFULLY AND SUCCESSFULLY DEPLOYED IN SOME SECURE AREAS OF THE SOUTH. THEN AND ONLY THEN TRY TO WORK OUT SOME SOLUTION FOR HADDAD AND SHIDIAK. PERHAPS GENERAL KHOURY'S ADVICE WILL BE TAKEN. IF SO, SOME COMMUNICATION IF ONY THROUGH UNIFIL OFFICERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED BETWEEN THE LAF AND HADDAD TO AVOID EXPLOSIONS.

9. HOPE BEIRUT AND WASHINGTON CAN PROVIDE ME WITH SOME FURTHER AMMUNITION TO USE LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

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